

maybe...do you want to explain the bill first and then go to the amendments?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, the bill removes the sales tax from farm machinery and equipment repair parts. I have amendments that I will discuss. One of them removes trucks and the other one puts a sunset clause on the bill. Now we have for years, for the past 2 years, stood here and said we must help the farmer, we must help the farmer. Many of us went back to Washington and we really didn't get any help for the farmer. We put seminars on for the farmer and we even charge him to go to some of those seminars. So what I am attempting to do is nothing else than to show the agriculture sector in this state, which is the biggest business in this state, it is worth 5 billion, that is with a "b", to Omaha, and 30 billion to the entire State of Nebraska, to show those people the Legislature wants to do something to help them. Now if they don't pay the sales tax on this equipment, the repair parts only, it is going to give more money for the farmer to spend. They are going to spend it. So in essence, it is not really a deficit budget because they are going to have more money to spend and they are going to spend it. Now as it is now, they are going to Kansas to buy farm machinery and equipment when it is used because there is no sales tax, and there is no sales tax on repair and replacement parts for such machinery. Missouri exempts new or used farm tractors, machinery, and equipment, repair parts, and replacement parts for such machinery. Now that is everything, new tractors or used tractors, no sales tax. If we did that in this state, it would probably be 25 to 30 million dollars. Now I am not asking for that. All I am asking is for us to show that we are going to remove the sales tax on machinery and repair parts and that we are trying to help them where we can. Now you might hear some talk on the floor of an interim study. An interim study is the easiest way to kill a bill. I am not opposed to an interim study on the whole issue but I would have to oppose any attempt to use the interim study to kill LB 219. All I am asking for today is to advance the bill from General File to Select File, and then we will take it from there. That is what I am asking for today. So with that explanation, Mr. President, I will sit back and wait a while.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, you, yourself, have two amendments. Do you want to take them up now?